

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon comprising a number N greater than 1 of separable subsets disposed in a common plane, the method comprising the following steps:

arranging N groups of optical fibers so that the fibers in any one group are disposed in the same plane; applying a first layer onto each group of optical fibers in order to form first casings, each first layer being of a first liquid resin that is settable under the action of UV type radiation;

applying "first" irradiation to the first layers using UV type radiation in order to form first matrices;

applying a second layer arranged to connect together adjacent first casings, said second layer being of a second liquid resin settable under the action of UV type radiation, all of the optical fibers being disposed in a common plane; and

applying "second" irradiation to the second layer using UV type radiation to form a second matrix referred to as a "link" matrix;

wherein said first and second irradiation steps correspond to a single irradiation step, and wherein said application of the second layer is performed before said single irradiation step.

2. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon according to claim 1, wherein, when said first and second resins are settable by the same chemical process selected from the radical process and the cation process, the method includes applying a barrier layer between each first layer and the second layer.

3. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon according to claim 2, wherein said barrier layer is made of a composition selected from siloxane-based polymers, olef in resins, mineral oils, and fatty alcohols.

4. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon according to claim 1, wherein the first resins are settable by one of the radical process and the cation process, and the second resin is settable by the other one of the cation process and the radical process.

5. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the first and second resins contains a peeling agent.

6. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon according to claim 5, wherein the peeling agent is preferably selected from polysiloxane-based polymers.

7. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon according to claim 1, the method including passing said optical fiber ribbon through an infrared oven after said single step of irradiation using UV type radiation.

8. A method of manufacturing an optical fiber ribbon according to claim 2, wherein one of the resins settable by the cation technique contains compounds based on oxirane such as bisphenol F or A glycidyl ethers, novolac or cycloaliphatic epoxy resins, epoxy silicone polymers, oxetanes, and vinyl or allyl ether monomers.

9. An optical fiber ribbon obtained by the method of manufacture according to claim 4 and comprising a plurality of separable subsets of optical fibers disposed in a common plane, each subset comprising a group of optical fibers arranged in said plane, the group being coated by a first matrix in the form of a first casing obtained by irradiating a first liquid resin settable by UV type radiation, each first casing being connected to the adjacent first casing(s) by a second matrix referred to as a "link" matrix and obtained by irradiating a second liquid

resin settable by ISV type radiation,

wherein the first matrices are obtained by one of the radical process and the cation process, and the link matrix is obtained by the other one of the cation process and the radical process.

10. An optical fiber ribbon according to claim 9, wherein the link matrix is obtained by the cation process.